

the end



MARIA & JESUS

their four children,

and some myths about the 10-year law
☆☆☆



MLRI MASSACHUSETTS
LAW REFORM
INSTITUTE



Is it true that you can receive *permanent immigration status* from the U.S. government if you've lived here for *over ten years*? Here is a story that answers that question.

Remember:

You must talk to a lawyer to see if the 10-year law could ever help you in the future.

Even if this law could help you, you must wait for a chance to apply.

But: you *can* start gathering your documents now.

Produced by the **Massachusetts Law Reform Institute**, 2017

Artwork created by the **Graphic Advocacy Project**

Print run made possible by the **City of Boston Mayor's Office for Immigrant Advancement** and **Red Sun Press**



ALWAYS seek help from a lawyer or a reliable community organization!

Greater Boston Legal Services

197 Friend Street
Boston, MA 02114
(617) 371-1234
<https://www.gbbs.org/>

MetroWest Legal Services

63 Fountain Street, Suite 304
Framingham, MA 01702
(508) 620-1830 ext. 234
<http://www.mwlegal.org>

East Boston Ecumenical Community Council

50 Meridian Street, Suite B-1
East Boston, MA 02128
(617) 567-2750
<http://www.ebecc.org/>

Centro Presente

12 Bennington Street, Suite 202
East Boston, MA 02128
(857) 256-2981
<http://www.cpresente.org/>

Northeast Legal Aid

181 Union St., Ste. 201, Lynn, MA
50 Island St., #203A, Lawrence, MA
35 Merrimack St., Ste. 302, Lowell
(978) 458-1465 | 1-800-336-2262
<http://www.northeastlegalaid.org/>

Catholic Charities Refugee and Immigrant Services

275 West Broadway
South Boston, MA 02127
(617) 451-7979
Haitian TPS: (617) 464-8004
<http://www.ccab.org/>

Irish International Immigrant Center

One State Street, Suite 800
Boston, MA 02109
(617) 542-7654
<http://www.iiicenter.org/>

Political Asylum/Immigration Representation Project

98 N Washington Street, Suite 106
Boston, MA 02114
(617) 742-9296
<http://pairproject.org/>

Community Legal Services & Counseling Center

1 West Street
Cambridge, MA 02139
(617) 661-1010
<http://www.clsacc.org>

Community Legal Aid and Central West Justice Center

405 Main St., 4th Fl., Worcester, MA
(508) 752-3718
1 Monarch Pl., Ste. 400, Springfield
(413) 781-7814
<http://www.communitylegal.org/>

Catholic Social Services of Fall River

1600 Bay Street
Fall River, MA 02724
(508) 674-4681
<http://www.cssdioc.org>

Ascentria Immigration Legal Assistance Program

11 Shattuck Street
Worcester, MA 01605
(774) 243-3045
<http://www.ascentria.org/ilap>

Victim Rights Law Center

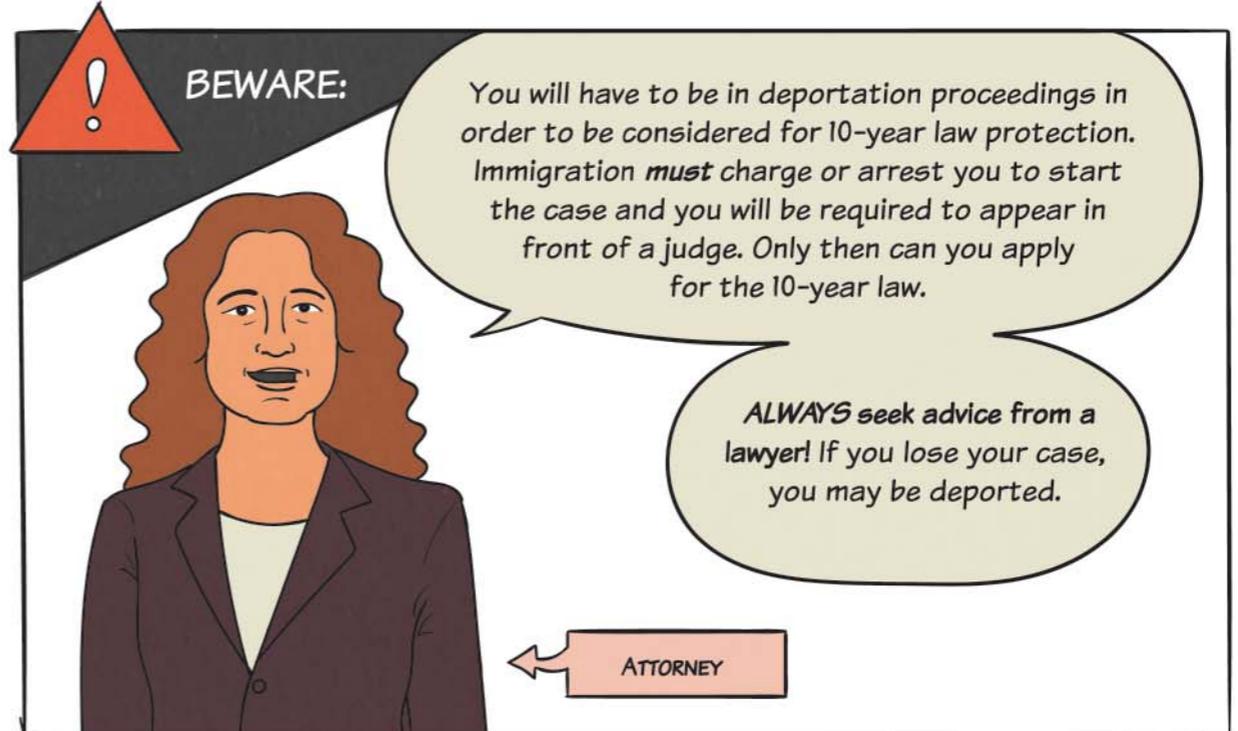
115 Broad Street, 3rd Floor
Boston, MA 02110
(617) 399-6720
<http://www.victimrights.org/>

Berkshire Immigrant Center

First Baptist Church
88 South Street
Pittsfield, MA 01201
(413) 445-4881
<http://berkshireic.com/>

Justice Center of Southeast Massachusetts LLC

231 Main St., Ste. 201, Brockton, MA
(508) 586-2110
460 West Main St., Hyannis, MA
(508) 775-7020
22 Bedford St., Fall River, MA
(508) 676-6265
<http://www.sccls.org/>



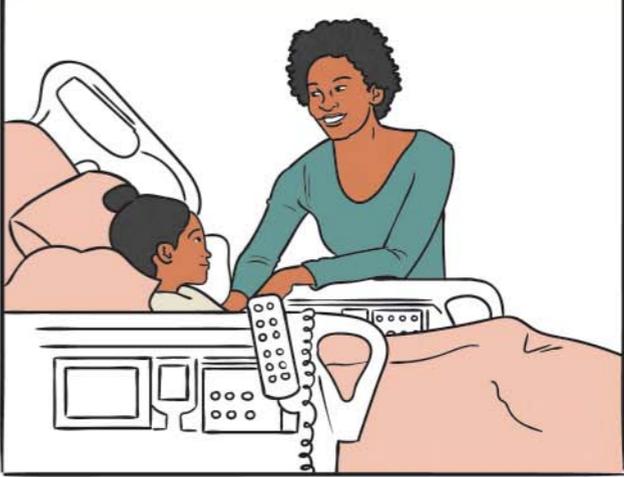


BEWARE:

To qualify for the 10-year law, which is called "Cancellation of Removal," a person must provide documents that prove **3 things**:



1. His/her deportation would cause a U.S. citizen or permanent resident child, spouse, or parent a **hardship** that is much greater than what every other person would suffer if deported.



2. He/she has no disqualifying criminal record, has **good moral character**, and deserves to be allowed to remain in the U.S.



3. He/she has **not left the U.S.** during the 10 years for any long or significant trips.



I wonder if my car accident would count against me.

It was 14 years ago. You were only 18.

But I had to go to court and pay the fine. Remember what the lawyer said about a criminal record?

Yes, you should call the lawyer and get his opinion.

I should find the court papers to show him too.



Here is a list of some documents you should gather in case you end up in front of a judge and need to apply for the ten-year law.

- Birth certificates of the U.S. citizen children
- Medical reports that show medical hardship to a U.S. citizen or permanent resident child or other family member if you had to leave the country
- Other documents that show hardship to U.S. citizen or permanent resident family members
- School records for the children
- Your employment and tax records
- Letters and other documents showing you have good moral character and have lived in the U.S. for at least 10 years

